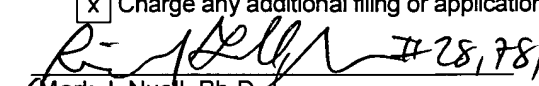




TW

| AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER   |   |   |                                   | Docket No.<br>0032-0254P      |  |
|--|---|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Application No.<br>09/530,013-Conf. #7256  |   | Filing Date<br>April 24, 2000           |                                   | Examiner<br>R. J. Gitomer     |  |
|  |   |   |                                   | Art Unit<br>1655              |  |
| Applicant(s): Hiroyuki SHIMIZU et al.  |   |   |                                   |                               |  |
| Invention: METHOD FOR INHIBITING THE DEGRADATION OF BRAIN NATRIURETIC PEPTIDES IN A SPECIMEN COMPRISING THE USE OF CONTAINERS MADE OF OR COATED WITH SILICONE OR PLASTICS                        |   |   |                                   |                               |  |
| <b>MS Amendment</b><br>Commissioner for Patents<br>P.O. Box 1450<br>Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  |   |   |                                   |                               |  |
| Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.<br>The fee has been calculated and is transmitted as shown below.  |   |   |                                   |                               |  |
| <b>CLAIMS AS AMENDED</b>   |   |   |                                   |                               |  |
|  | Claims<br>Remaining<br>After<br>Amendment | Highest<br>Number<br>Previously<br>Paid | Number<br>Extra Claims<br>Present | Rate                          |  |
| Total Claims   | 5   | - 20 =                                  |                                   | x                             |  |
| Independent<br>Claims  | 4   | - 6 =                                   |                                   | x                             |  |
| Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>   |   |   |                                   |                               |  |
| Other fee (please specify):  |   |   |                                   |                               |  |
| <b>TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT:</b>  |   |   |                                   |                               |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Large Entity <input type="checkbox"/> Small Entity   |   |   |                                   |                               |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No additional fee is required for this amendment.   |   |   |                                   |                               |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____.<br>A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.   |   |   |                                   |                               |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the filing fee is enclosed.  |   |   |                                   |                               |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.  |   |   |                                   |                               |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Director is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. <u>02-2448</u><br>as described below. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. |   |   |                                   |                               |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Credit any overpayment.  |   |   |                                   |                               |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charge any additional filing or application processing fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17.   |   |   |                                   |                               |  |
| <br>Mark J. Nuehl, Ph.D.<br>Attorney Reg. No.: 36,623   |   |   |                                   | Dated: <u>August 30, 2005</u> |  |
| BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP<br>8110 Gatehouse Rd<br>Suite 100 East<br>P.O. Box 747<br>Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747<br>(703) 205-8043   |   |   |                                   |                               |  |



Docket No.: 0032-0254P  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Hiroyuki SHIMIZU et al.

Application No.: 09/530,013

Confirmation No.: 7256

Filed: April 24, 2000

Art Unit: 1655

For: METHOD FOR INHIBITING THE  
DEGRADATION OF BRAIN NATRIURETIC  
PEPTIDES IN A SPECIMEN COMPRISING  
THE USE OF CONTAINERS MADE OF OR  
COATED WITH SILICONE OR PLASTICS

Examiner: R. J. Gitomer

**AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

In response to the Office Action dated July 5, 2005, the following amendments and Remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

This response includes:

Amended Claim Set; and  
Remarks.